Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When Affordable Care Doesn't Seem Impossible

Nancy R. - Las Vegas, NV

That's Medicaid *shares stories of people covered by Medicaid at critical points in their lives, underscoring the importance of stable health insurance coverage in building a Culture of Health.*

Nancy's life was turned upside down when forced to leave home while still in high school. Health insurance was the last thing on her mind. It wasn't until an episode of bad allergies that Nancy was forced to face the reality of how important health care coverage can be.

Three years later, Nancy once again found herself in need of health care when she experienced an extreme case of the flu and needed to be transported to the hospital. Hesitant because of expenses she couldn't afford, her nurse convinced her to sign up for Medicaid.

Medicaid not only fully covered Nancy's medical bills and allowed to her to receive the care she lacked when she was younger, but she was also able to receive mental health care as she dealt with the trauma of her past home life.

"Medicaid helped me through my trauma. I lived in a toxic household and therapy allowed me to develop my own emotions," she says. "It wasn't healthy for me to keep going the way I was."

Nancy's life has turned around for the better. She'll soon be off Medicaid and receive health care through her full-time job and will soon start as a college student.

The help Nancy received from Medicaid inspired her to study medical billing when she goes to college. She wants to help others learn about Medicaid and its benefits, the same way her nurse did for her three years ago.

"It's sad that so many people don't know about Medicaid," Nancy says. "It helped me when I was alone in the world."